

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Case File No.: AA-050617 (2384)
AK-040-01-EA-025

Applicant: Department of Treasury,
U.S. Customs Service

Type of Action: Withdrawal Revocation/Restoration

Location: Copper River Meridian, Alaska
T. 62 S., R. 83 E.,
U.S. Survey No. 1119, Alaska, Block 9, Lots 12 and 13.

Prepared By: Dorothy Bonds
Realty Specialist

Preparing Office: Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
6881 Abbott Loop Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2599

Date: September 19, 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:

The Department of Treasury, U.S. Customs Service has requested relinquishment of a withdrawal, authorized by Executive Order (EO) 3077 dated April 16, 1919. The U.S. Customs Service has determined that the lands are no longer needed for the purposes for which they were withdrawn and has petitioned the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to revoke EO 3077. EO 3077 reserved two lots (Block 9, Lots 12 and 13, Wrangell, Alaska) to be withdrawn for administrative purposes.

B. Conformance With Land Use Plan:

No land use plan exists for this area. However, the environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal of [43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1)].

C. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or Other Environmental Analyses:

If the withdrawal is revoked, the State of Alaska will have preferred selection rights. As required by Sec. 6(g) of the Alaska Statehood Act, the order of revocation shall provide for a period of not less than ninety days@, before the date on which it otherwise becomes effective...during which period the State of Alaska shall have a preferred right of selection, subject to the requirements of this Act.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to revoke EO 3077 and to restore land to the public domain. The site is located in Wrangell, Alaska, and is described as T. 62 S., R. 83 E., Copper River Meridian, U.S. Survey No. 1119, Block 9, Lots 12 and 13,

Lot 13 amounts to .029 of an acre and Lot 12 is .033 of an acre. Both lots amount to .062 of an acre in size.

Based upon a field examination conducted on March 20, 2001, it was determined that Lot 13 of Block 9 had been completely eroded by the ocean.

B. No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative is to continue the withdrawal.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Critical Elements:

The following critical elements of the human environment were not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action:

Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Cultural Resources
Environmental Justice
Farm Lands (prime or unique)
Floodplains
Invasive, Non-native Species
Native American Religious Concerns
Threatened or Endangered Species
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Water Quality Surface/Ground
Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

1. Subsistence:

The Proposed Action is administrative in nature and does not alter the current status of the lands regarding the Federal Subsistence authority and regulation from Federal to State jurisdiction. The subject lands are incapable of producing a productive capability. Therefore, the Proposed Action was determined to have no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

B. Wildlife:

The area that has not eroded away is devoid of most vegetation and consequently has limited value for wildlife habitat. The site provides a nesting habitat for migrant land birds to nest and feed in surrounding forest habitats. There have been no wildlife surveys completed in this area to determine numbers and distribution in the general area.

C. Vegetation:

Lot 13 has eroded away or has been disturbed by human use. The remaining vegetation consists of a few low shrub and grass species common to Southeast Alaska.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:

There are no impacts from the Proposed Action. The proposed revocation of EO 3077 is administrative in nature and would have no effect on the human environment. The revocation of EO 3077 would lead to management by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act.

B. Impacts of the No Action Alternative:

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to the human environment.

C. Residual and Cumulative Impacts:

No residual or cumulative impacts will occur from this action.

D. Mitigation:

No mitigating measures are necessary since this action does not impact the environment.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. List of Preparers:

Dorothy Bonds - Realty Specialist
Donna Redding - Archaeologist
Jeff Denton - Subsistence Coordinator
Bruce Seppi - Wildlife Biologist
Debbie Blank - Botanist